

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating between a graphical component library and an appearance manager, comprising:

issuing, by the graphical component library, a rendering service request for a graphical component, the request including at least one component defining parameter~~[[;]]~~ and a theme handle, the theme handle being a reference to a predetermined set of appearance characteristics stored in an internal data structure accessible to the appearance manager; and

receiving, by the appearance manager, the rendering service request for the graphical component and assigning the predetermined set of appearance characteristics to the graphical component based upon the at least one component parameters and the theme handle~~[[;]]~~

~~issuing, by the graphical component library, a request for a theme handle corresponding to a set of appearance characteristics;~~

~~receiving, by the appearance manager, the theme handle request;~~

~~identifying, by the appearance manager, a theme handle;~~

~~issuing, by the appearance manager, the requested theme handle; and~~

~~receiving, by the graphical component library, the requested theme handle.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the parameters include a part ID and a state ID, and wherein the assigned appearance ~~information is characteristics~~ are based upon the part ID and state ID.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]]1, further comprising:

issuing, by the appearance manager to the graphical component library, a message that desired appearance characteristics have changed;

issuing, by the graphical component library to the appearance manager, a request for a new theme handle corresponding to a new predetermined set of appearance characteristics stored in the internal data structure;

identifying, by the appearance manager, a new theme handle ~~identifier~~; and

issuing, by the appearance manager to the graphical component library, the requested new theme handle, the new theme handle being a reference to the new predetermined set of appearance characteristics.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the requested graphical component is a control.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein one of the parameters of the graphical component rendering service request is a location for the control.

8. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

9. (Original) A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to perform the steps recited in claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating between a graphical component library and an appearance manager, comprising:


issuing, by the graphical component library, a request for a theme handle corresponding to a predetermined set of appearance characteristics to be used when rendering at least one graphical component;

receiving, by the appearance manager, the theme handle request;

identifying, by the appearance manager, ~~[[a]]the~~ theme handle;

issuing, by the appearance manager, the ~~requested~~ theme handle; and

receiving, by the graphical component library, the ~~requested~~ theme handle, the theme handle being a reference to the predetermined set of appearance characteristics stored in an internal structure.



11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising issuing, by the graphical component library, a rendering service request for a graphical component, the request including at least one component defining parameter and wherein the theme handle is issued by the graphical component library as a component defining parameter.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
issuing, by the appearance manager to the graphical component library, a message that desired appearance characteristics have changed;

issuing, by the graphical component library to the appearance characteristic manager, a request for a ~~new-second~~ theme handle corresponding to a ~~new-second~~ predetermined set of appearance characteristics stored in the internal structure;

identifying, by the appearance manager, a second ~~new~~-theme handle identifier; and  
issuing, by the appearance manager to the graphical component library, the ~~requested new~~-second  
theme handle, the second theme handle being a reference to the second predetermined set of appearance  
characteristics.

13. (Original) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for  
performing the steps recited in claim 10.

14. (Original) A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment,  
the computer system operable to perform the steps recited in claim 10.

15-42. (Canceled)

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